SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4 line 14 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the depicted example, a server **21**, a client **22**, a client **23**, a server **31**, and a server **51** are connected to network **20**; server **31**, a client **32**, a client **33**, a client **34**, and a server **41** are connected to network **30**; server **41**, a client **42**, a client **43**, and a server **44** are connected to network **40**; server **51**, a client **52**, a client **53**, a server **61**, and a server **71** are connected to network **50**; server **61**, a client **62**, a client **63**, and a client **64** are connected to network **60**; and server **71**, a client **72**, a client **73**, and a client **74** are connected to network **70**. Clients **22**, **23**, **32-34**, **42-44**, **52**, **53**, [[**61-62**]] **62-64**, and [[**72-73**]] **72-74**, and servers **21**, **31**, **41**, **51**, **61**, and **71** are nodes of distributed data processing system **10** that may be represented by a variety of computing devices, such as mainframes, personal computers, personal digital assistants (PDAs), etc. Distributed data processing system **10** may [[includes]] include additional servers, clients, networks, routers, and other devices not shown. Those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that each server **21**, **31**, **41**, **51**, **61**, and **71** provides one or more assigned services, e.g., lodging service, authentication service, gateway service, etc., for distributed data processing system **10**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to **FIGS. 1A**, **2A** and **2B**, a service allocation device **100** in accordance with the present invention and a service allocation method **110** in accordance with the present invention are shown, respectively. Service allocation device [[**70**]] **100** is installed within or accessible by one or more servers **21**, **31**, **41**, **51**, **61**, and **71** to facilitate an optimal allocation of services between servers **21**, **31**, **41**, **51**, **61**, and **71**. Service allocation device **100** includes a probe **101**, a module **102**, and an engine **103**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6 line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

During stage **S114** of method **110**, probe **101** utilizes logical data **LD** to collect performance data **PD** representative of the physical characteristics of distributed data processing system **10** as would occur to those of ordinary skill in the art. Performance data **PD** can [[includes]] include a round trip time, a hop count, and a bottleneck speed as measured from each server **21**, **31**, **41**, **51**, **61**, and **71**. For example, a round trip time indicating the mean communication time between server **21** and each client **22**, **23**, **32-34**, **42-44**, **52**, **53**, [[**61-62**]] **62-64**, and [[**72-73**]] **72-74** can be measured by probe **101**. Also by example, a hop count indicating server **31** and server **41** are required to route a service from server **21** to client **43** can be measured by probe **101**. Another example is a bottleneck speed indicating a lowest link speed between server **21** and client **63** can be measured by probe **101**.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7 line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

During stage **S116** of method **110**, module **102** utilizes performance data **PD** to provide cluster data **CD** that identifies each node cluster within distributed data processing system **10**. A node cluster is an aggregation of nodes of distributed data processing system **10** that can be viewed as one node for purposes of providing the network service for distributed data processing system **10**. For example, based on performance data **PD**, cluster data **CD** can identify a node cluster **NC1** as shown in **FIG.** [[**4A**]] **3A**, a node cluster **NC2** as shown in **FIG.** [[**4B**]] **3B**, and a node cluster **NC3** as shown in **FIG.** [[**4C**]] **3C**.